

12. (Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium as set forth in claim

11, wherein the mask layer is made of GdFeCo in which Gd is contained in the range of 26 to 30 atom% and Co is contained in the range of 20 to 30 atom%.

15. (Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium as set forth in any

one of claims 11 or 12, further comprising a magnetic layer which has a direction of easy magnetization extending in an in-plane direction at room temperature and is exchanged-coupled to the mask layer.

17. (Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium as set forth in any

one of claims 11 or 12, wherein three magnetic layers including the mask layer, the reproduction layer and the intermediate layer each contain Gd.

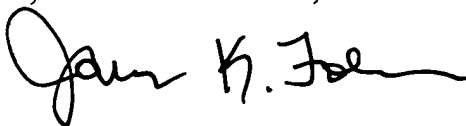
### REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request these claims be considered with the examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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